

By: Kuempel

H.B. No. 3065

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to adoption by a stepparent.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 162, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 162.0027 to read as follows:

Sec. 162.0027. ADOPTION BY STEPPARENT. (a) In a suit for adoption, a court or person performing an adoption evaluation may not grant preference to a relative of the child over a stepparent of the child solely on the basis of consanguinity.

(b) If a parent of the child dies, leaving the child with no living parent whose parental rights have not been terminated, the court may grant a stepparent's petition for adoption on an expedited basis, provided that all requirements of this chapter are fulfilled. The child may reside with the stepparent while the adoption petition is pending, unless the court finds that would not be in the best interest of the child.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a petition for adoption filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.